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**Georgetown's
ivory tower
for old spooks**

THE GEORGETOWN CENTER for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS) may not yet be a household word, but it is rapidly becoming the New Right's most sophisticated propaganda mill. Writers like Michael Ledeen, Edward Luttwak, Walter Laqueur, and Robert Moss—members or close associates of the center—nearly every month grace the pages of such influential political magazines as *National Review*, *Commentary*, *New Republic*, and *Harper's*, not to mention the more specialized publications on strategic affairs. And if the "line" that emerges from this common pool of strategic thinkers sounds suspiciously like that of the Pentagon and the CIA, it is no coincidence.

In the wake of recent congressional investigations, the CIA has been forced to back off from its regular practice of recruiting agents from within the working press. But its version of history is today as widely aired as ever, thanks in good measure to the Cold War intellectual elite at the Georgetown center. These articulate and sophisticated anti-Communists, many of them former "national security" officials, are the vanguard of a conservative movement to bury détente and revive the worldwide struggle against the Soviet Union. They are aided immeasurably in that task by the aura of respectability and scholarly detachment they draw from their association with Georgetown University, and by the prestige of the many national publications that now regularly carry their grim writings.

The CSIS is for all practical purposes a part of Georgetown University, but its offices,

advisory board, and \$2.4 million budget (supplied mostly by foundations) are all independent of the administration or faculty of the university. David Abshire, a former assistant secretary of state for congressional affairs, is the center's chief executive officer and the person responsible for convincing Henry Kissinger and Ray Cline, former deputy director of the CIA, to come aboard. Kissinger, in residence along with an entourage of former National Security Council assistants and bodyguards, holds the title of counselor. Walter Laqueur, author of several books on the Middle East, guerrillas, and terrorism, chairs the research council. The senior research staff includes Penelope Hartland-Thunberg, formerly of the CIA's Board of National Estimates; Michael Ledeen, who writes on such subjects as Eurocommunism, terrorism, and CIA "moles"; William Hyland, former director of intelligence at the State Department; and Edward Luttwak, a consultant to the secretary of defense and an adviser to Senator Howard Baker on SALT.

The CSIS holds frequent seminars to keep its staff in touch with influential policy makers—like the time Rhodesian Prime Minister Ian Smith went over to talk with Kissinger and company. It also publishes a journal, edited by Ledeen, *The Washington Quarterly*, and sends free reports out to those likely to be most receptive to its political stance, including Jaswant Singh, editor of publications for the Indian armed forces; *The South African Digest*; the Argentine navy; and the American Petroleum Institute's *The Oil Daily*. Members of Congress also receive its reports regularly. But if you are just a student at Georgetown University, forget it. As the student newspaper once observed, "It is less familiar to most students than the terrain of the Sea of Tranquility. Few have heard about it and among those few, misconceptions abound." Students and the rest of the general public are welcome to see only a CSIS-produced film on the energy crisis "featuring the Flintstone cartoon characters with narration by Charlton Heston," according to the center's annual report.

For its select audience the CSIS strives to produce timely reports on major issues of international politics affecting national security. As Jon Vandracek, director of communications, explained, "What makes the Center unique is its emphasis on anticipating the nature of future problems. That is the real

Advisory Board, the CIA's oversight panel. Clare Luce had been U.S. ambassador to Italy when Colby was CIA station chief in Rome. Claire Sterling, a free-lance journalist, had long been the correspondent in Italy for the *Reporter* magazine, a key voice of Cold War liberalism until it folded in 1968.

All the panelists agreed on the need for U.S. action to prevent a Communist victory in Italy, frequently citing the Chilean example as a "successful" precedent. They discussed the Italian Communist party (PCI) not so much in its indigenous political context, but rather as a "national security" threat to the United States and all of NATO.

Back in the days when the United States was the undisputed leader of the

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"Free World," Colby was running the largest political action program in the history of the CIA. Colby tells about this 1950s Italian operation in his recent confessional, *My Life in the CIA*. Before crucial elections the CIA would encourage Italian-Americans to write letters to their relatives in Italy warning them not to vote Communist. One of the CIA's favorite propaganda themes, according to Colby, was the charge that the PCI received secret Russian funding through a complex of party-controlled import-export firms that engaged in trade with